

**Fall Executive Committee Meeting
October 21-22, 2011, Chicago**

Topic: Piloting a Virtual Award or Selection Committee

Background: Since 2010, all process committees moved to a virtual work environment and thus opened up the doors for more YALSA members to participate across the country. YALSA's Executive Committee may want to explore the desirability of expanding virtual options to selection committees in order to further increase opportunities for members.

Action Required: Discussion

Proposal

Beginning with selection and award committees that start their work Feb. 1, 2013, YALSA would pilot a virtual selection committee to test the feasibility of moving this type of work entirely into a virtual environment.

Rationale

- Only about 20% of YALSA's members come to conferences, and libraries across the country are less and less able to provide funds for YALSA members to travel to Midwinter and Annual conferences. Virtual committees increase participation opportunities across the membership.
- Since Member Engagement is part of YALSA's strategic plan, YALSA needs to identify new ways for members to participate in the kinds of activities that are valued by them.
- The technology which enables committees to work virtually continues to improve and be more widely available, more individuals are comfortable with using it and YALSA has more procedures and resources in place to support virtual committees.
- A couple of selection committees are already doing significant amount of work virtually, especially those that announce a list of finalists in December each year.
- A significant amount of staff time and resources goes into planning and implementing selection committee meetings at Midwinter and Annual, including the packing and shipping of dozens of boxes of books.

Possible Next Steps

The Executive Committee fleshes out the idea and submits a proposal to the Board to consider at Midwinter. The proposal will need to identify a selection and/or an award committee to be piloted.

Additional Resources

- Street Lit Book Award Committee (works entirely virtually):
www.streetliterature.com/2011/02/slot-available-on-2011-street-lit-book.html

--respectfully submitted, Jack Martin